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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The CKD [Cesko-Moranska Kolben-Kanek] concern is located in a suburb of Prague formerly named Vysocany. In 1949, not only the name of the CKD complex but also the Vysocany district was changed to Stalingrad.

2. During the cartellization of Czechoslovakian heavy industry between the two world wars, Cesko-Moravska Kolben-Danek Co, Cesko-Moravska Factory Co Ltd., Kolben Co Ltd and Breitfeld-Danek Machine Factory Co Ltd were merged into the Cesko-Moravska Kolben Danek Co. This company comprised a large part of the Czech heavy industry and was on a par with the Skoda concern.

3. The plant buildings are located in a highly urbanized area where there is no opportunity for expansion. The plant buildings are in general obsolete, since they probably were erected 25-30 years ago, or immediately after World War I. The plant was not damaged by air raids. However, the maintenance and repair has been insufficient, resulting in unhealthy working conditions. There are so many machine tools in each building that they cannot operate efficiently. Manufacturing operations seem to be performed without proper care or organization.

4. The production capacity of the entire electrical equipment factory is about one-fourth of that of the "Gigant" factory in Doudlevce or about 2,000-2,500 KVA per day. (This includes the combined production of generator, motor or transformers, not each type separately.)

5. The Czech electrical equipment industry is enormously overloaded because of the increase in industrial activity generally and more specifically because of the many thermic and hydraulic power stations under construction. It is expected that the new "Gigant" plant will absorb most of this demand.

6. A new building is under construction for the manufacture of rectifiers, which will employ 800-1000 workers and operate at full capacity in 1954. The designed capacity of the rectifier plant will be 400-600 units (monoanodic rectifier) per year. A

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monoanodic iron-clad rectifier adaptable to the needs of the electrolytic process industries and the electrification of the railroads is being produced.

7. The rectifier design is a copy of that of the Westinhouse Company in the US. The output of the single rectifiers will be 400-600 amperes, 800 volts. A set containing six rectifiers and auxiliary equipment was built which weighed about 3-3.5 tons. Because of the lack of quartz, the cathodic part is made out of enamelled steel.

8. Electric motors are large above 800-1000 KW. They are up to date, resembling designs of German firms Siemens and A E G, indicating close collaboration between German and Czech industries during World War II.

9. Turbo-generators (above 5 thousand KW) are up to date and also resemble German designs. [redacted] the entire manufacture of turbo-generators will be carried out by the "Gigant".

10. Transformers are less modern. This fact was emphasized by the several efforts made by Czech authorities to obtain designs of the Hungarian transformers. In the terms of the 1950 aluminum agreement Hungary was obliged to deliver two different types of transformers. These will be used as patterns.

11. [redacted] beside electrical equipment, railroad cars, steam turbines and military equipment are manufactured.

12. The shortage of copper is the major difficulty. Czechoslovakia is dependent upon the import of copper. During World War II German sources were available and until commercial relations between the Satellites and Yugoslavia were stopped by USSR in 1949, compensatory agreements with Yugoslavia provided copper. At present, all copper used in the electrical equipment industry is obtained by smuggling via Turkey and Poland. Although Czechoslovakia is attempting to build up an independent aluminum industry, the use of aluminum will cause great difficulties both in the design and manufacture of electrical equipment.

13. A large military airfield about one mile distant from the plant presumably provides anti-aircraft protection.

14. The plant receives its electric power and water from the city of Prague. The city of Prague in November 1951, however, had so little power available that many districts of the city were without light for hours daily.

15. The number of employees in the electric plants is about 5 thousand. The whole Stalingrad district, however, has probably 50 thousand workers. The rectifier factory will have 800-1,000 employees upon completion. [redacted]

16. By governmental decree workers' quarters are in the immediate vicinity of the plant. This is probably a result of the inadequate city transportation system.

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